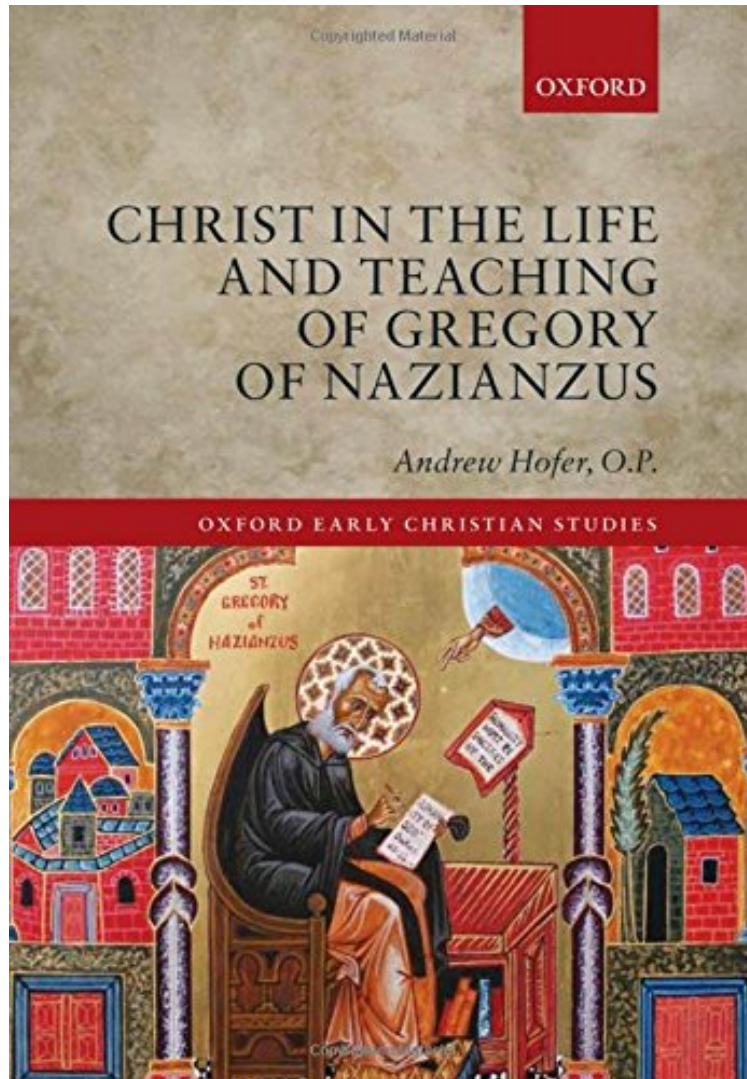


Christ in the Life and Teaching of Gregory of Nazianzus (Oxford Early Christian Studies)

Andrew Hofer O.P.

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Andrew Hofer O.P. : Christ in the Life and Teaching of Gregory of Nazianzus (Oxford Early Christian Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christ in the Life and Teaching of Gregory of Nazianzus (Oxford Early Christian Studies):

Christ in the Life and Teaching of Gregory of Nazianzus is the first full-length book devoted to an overview of the

Christology of this fourth-century Father of the Church. Andrew Hofer examines the breadth of Gregory's corpus-- orations, letters, and poems (often neglected in doctrinal studies)--to argue that Gregory's writing on Christ can be best understood in tandem with his autobiography. This study begins with an articulation of Gregory's theology of the Word in which words come from the Word who became incarnate. Hofer then offers a close reading of how Gregory writes to or about Christ in the poetry known as "on himself." Within a three-part study of "autobiographical Christology," Hofer explores the philosophical background of Gregory's rhetoric for what he calls the "mixtures" of Christ and himself. He then elucidates this autobiographical concern in Gregory's famous Ep. 101, a landmark text in the Christological controversies. Thirdly, Hofer considers how Gregory celebrates the mysteries of Christ in the festal orations. Before the book's epilogue, a chapter describes how Gregory wrote of Christ for his pastoral ministry. Throughout the work, Hofer demonstrates the importance in Gregory's writings of the language of blending (such as in the Greek word *krasis*, rejected by the Council of Chalcedon to describe the Incarnation). This book thus offers a unique perspective on the one known as "the Theologian" in Chalcedon's acts and in subsequent Christian tradition.

"I highly recommend this volume to all students of Gregory the Theologian, of pre-Chalcedonian Christology, and to all interested in exploring the inner quality of the theological, priestly, and pastoral praxis of the Church Fathers." -- Anna Silvas, *Theological Studies*